

1 Mark C. Mao, CA Bar No. 236165
2 Beko Reblitz-Richardson, CA Bar No. 238027
3 **BOIES SCHILLER FLEXNER LLP**
4 44 Montgomery St., 41st Floor
5 San Francisco, CA 94104
Tel.: (415) 293-6800
mmao@bsfllp.com
brichardson@bsfllp.com

Jesse Panuccio (admitted *pro hac vice*)
BOIES SCHILLER FLEXNER LLP
1401 New York Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20005
Tel.: (202) 237-2727
Fax: (202) 237-6131
jpanuccio@bsflp.com

11 Amanda K. Bonn, CA Bar No. 270891
12 **SUSMAN GODFREY L.L.P**
13 1900 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 1400
14 Los Angeles, CA 90067
Tel: (310) 789-3100
Fax: (310) 789-3150
abonn@susmangodfrey.com

Attorneys for Plaintiffs

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

ANIBAL RODRIGUEZ, JULIEANNA MUNIZ, ELIZA CAMBAY, SAL CATALDO, EMIR GOENAGA, JULIAN SANTIAGO, HAROLD NYANJOM, KELLIE NYANJOM, and SUSAN LYNN HARVEY, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

VS.

GOOGLE LLC,

Defendant.

William Christopher Carmody
(admitted *pro hac vice*)
Shawn J. Rabin (admitted *pro hac vice*)
Steven M. Shepard (admitted *pro hac vice*)
Alexander Frawley (admitted *pro hac vice*)
SUSMAN GODFREY L.L.P.
1301 Avenue of the Americas,
32nd Floor
New York, NY 10019
Tel.: (212) 336-8330
bcarmody@susmangodfrey.com
srabin@susmangodfrey.com
sshepard@susmangodfrey.com
afrawley@susmangodfrey.com

John A. Yanchunis (admitted *pro hac vice*)
Ryan J. McGee (admitted *pro hac vice*)
Michael F. Ram, CA Bar No. 104805
MORGAN & MORGAN
201 N. Franklin Street, 7th Floor
Tampa, FL 33602
Tel.: (813) 223-5505
jyanchunis@forthepeople.com
rmcgee@forthepeople.com
mram@forthepeople.com

Case No.: 3:20-cv-04688

**PLAINTIFFS' OPPOSITION TO
GOOGLE'S MOTION TO DISMISS
PORTIONS OF THE THIRD AMENDED
COMPLAINT**

The Honorable Richard Seeborg
Courtroom 3 – 17th Floor
Date: October 28, 2021
Time: 1:30 p.m.

Oral Argument Requested

TABLE OF CONTENTS

2	INTRODUCTION.....	1
3	ARGUMENT	2
4	I. Plaintiffs State a Claim Under CIPA Section 631.....	3
5	A. The TAC Alleges That Google Intercepted The Communications During Transit.....	3
6	1. The TAC fixes the SAC's deficiency.....	3
7	2. The remaining allegations are consistent with Plaintiffs' theory.....	5
8	B. Plaintiffs (Again) Plead A Lack of Consent.....	7
9	C. Google Is Not a "Party" To The User-App Communications.....	9
10	II. Plaintiffs State a Breach-of-Contract Claim.....	11
11	A. Plaintiffs' New Unilateral Contract Theory Fixes Prior Problems.....	11
12	B. Google Promised To Not Collect Third-Party App Activity Provided That Plaintiffs Turned Off WAA.....	13
13	C. Google Breached Its Contractual Obligation To Not Collect Plaintiffs' App Activity While They Had WAA Turned Off.....	18
14	D. The Terms of Services' Limitation-of-Liability Clauses Do Not Apply.....	19
15	III. Plaintiffs Alternatively State a Quasi-Contract (Unjust Enrichment) Claim.....	22
16	CONCLUSION	25

TABLE OF AUTHORITIES

		Page(s)
1	Cases	
4	<i>AdTrader, Inc. v. Google LLC</i> , 2018 WL 3428525 (N.D. Cal. July 13, 2018)	23
5	<i>Ashcroft v. Iqbal</i> , 556 U.S. 662 (2009)	2
7	<i>Asmus v. Pac. Bell</i> , 23 Cal. 4th 1 (Cal. 2000)	12
9	<i>Bass v. Facebook, Inc.</i> , 394 F. Supp. 3d 1024 (N.D. Cal. 2019).....	21
10	<i>Bell Atl. Corp. v. Twombly</i> , 550 U.S. 544 (2007)	2
12	<i>Block v. eBay, Inc.</i> , 747 F.3d 1135 (9th Cir. 2014).....	16
14	<i>Brodsky v. Apple Inc.</i> , 445 F. Supp. 3d 110 (N.D. Cal. 2020).....	5
15	<i>Brown v. Google LLC</i> , 2021 WL 949372 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 12, 2021)	9
17	<i>Cal. Spine & Neurosurgery Inst. v. United Healthcare Ins. Co.</i> , 2019 WL 4450842 (N.D. Cal. Sept. 17, 2019).....	25
19	<i>Calhoun v. Google LLC</i> , 2021 WL 1056532 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 17, 2021)	9
20	<i>Cheung v. Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.</i> , 987 F. Supp. 2d 972 (N.D. Cal. 2013) (Seeborg, J.)	22
22	<i>Dahl v. HEM Pharms. Corp.</i> , 7 F.3d 1399 (9th Cir. 1993).....	12
24	<i>Darnaa, LLC v. Google LLC</i> , 756 F. App'x 674 (9th Cir. 2018).....	21
25	<i>Davis v. Facebook</i> , 956 F.3d 589 (9th Cir. 2020).....	<i>passim</i>
27	<i>Donohue v. Apple, Inc.</i> , 871 F. Supp. 2d 913 (N.D. Cal. 2012).....	16

1	<i>Elias v. Navasartian</i> , 2017 WL 1013122 (E.D. Cal. Feb. 17, 2017)	19
2		
3	<i>Frezza v. Google Inc.</i> , 2013 WL 1736788 (N.D. Cal. Apr. 22, 2013).....	18
4		
5	<i>Graham v. Noom, Inc.</i> , 2021 WL 1312765 (N.D. Cal. Apr. 8, 2021).....	9
6		
7	<i>Harris v. Time, Inc.</i> , 191 Cal. App. 3d 449 (Cal. Ct. App. 1987).....	12, 17
8		
9	<i>Huynh v. Quora, Inc.</i> , 2019 WL 11502875 (N.D. Cal. Dec. 19, 2019)	21
10		
11	<i>In re Facebook, Inc., Consumer Privacy User Profile Litig.</i> , 402 F. Supp. 3d 767 (N.D. Cal. 2019).....	15, 17
12		
13	<i>In re Google Assistant Privacy Litig.</i> , 2021 WL 2711747 (N.D. Cal. July 1, 2021)	16, 21
14		
15	<i>In re Google Assistant Privacy Litig.</i> , 457 F. Supp. 3d 797 (N.D. Cal. 2020).....	21
16		
17	<i>In re Yahoo Mail Litig.</i> , 308 F.R.D. 577 (N.D. Cal. 2015)	7
18		
19	<i>In re Yahoo! Inc. Customer Data Sec. Breach Litig.</i> , 313 F. Supp. 3d 1113 (N.D. Cal. 2018).....	22
20		
21	<i>Konop v. Hawaiian Airlines, Inc.</i> , 302 F.3d 868 (9th Cir. 2002)	7
22		
23	<i>Letizia v. Facebook Inc.</i> , 267 F. Supp. 3d 1235 (N.D. Cal. 2017).....	23
24		
25	<i>Lewis v. YouTube, LLC</i> , 244 Cal. App. 4th 118 (Cal. Ct. App. 2015).....	21
26		
27	<i>London v. New Albertson's, Inc.</i> , 2008 WL 4492642 (S.D. Cal. Sept. 30, 2008)	19
28		
	<i>Loos v. Immersion Corp.</i> , 762 F.3d 880 (9th Cir. 2014)	3, 4
	<i>Manzarek v. St. Paul Fire & Marine Ins. Co.</i> , 519 F.3d 1025 (9th Cir. 2008).....	2

1	<i>Quigley v. Yelp, Inc.</i> , 2018 WL 7204066 (N.D. Cal. Jan. 22, 2018) (Seeborg, J.)	7
2		
3	<i>Revitch v. New Moosejaw, LLC</i> , 2019 WL 5485330 (N.D. Cal. Oct. 23, 2019)	10
4		
5	<i>Rodman v. Safeway Inc.</i> , 125 F. Supp. 3d 922 (N.D. Cal. 2015).....	20
6		
7	<i>Rodman v. Safeway, Inc.</i> , 2011 WL 5241113 (N.D. Cal. Nov. 1, 2011).....	17
8		
9	<i>Rogers v. Ulrich</i> , 52 Cal. App. 3d 894 (1975).....	9
10		
11	<i>Saleh v. Nike, Inc.</i> , 2021 WL 4437734 (C.D. Cal. Sept. 27, 2021).....	9, 10
12		
13	<i>Sateriale v. R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.</i> , 697 F.3d 777 (9th Cir. 2012).....	11, 12, 17
14		
15	<i>Silicon Valley Self Direct, LLC v. Paychex, Inc.</i> , 2015 WL 4452373 (N.D. Cal. July 20, 2015)	22
16		
17	<i>Smith v. LoanMe, Inc.</i> , 11 Cal. 5th 183 (2021).....	10
18		
19	<i>Whittlestone, Inc. v. Handi-Craft Co.</i> , 618 F.3d 970 (9th Cir. 2010).....	19
20		
21	<i>Williams v. Apple Inc.</i> , 2021 WL 2186223 (N.D. Cal. May 28, 2021).....	17
22		
23	<i>Williams v. Facebook, Inc.</i> , 498 F. Supp. 3d 1189 (N.D. Cal. 2019) (Seeborg, J.)	25
24		
25	Statutes	
26	Cal. Penal Code § 631	<i>passim</i>
27		
28	Rules	
29	Fed. R. Civ. P. 9(b).....	25
30		
31	Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(f)	19
32		
33	Fed. R. Civ. 12(b)(6)	19
34		

1 **Other Authorities**

2 1 Witkin, Summary 11th Contracts § 105 12

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

INTRODUCTION

With the Court’s leave and guidance, Plaintiffs amended their complaint to address specific issues identified by the Court in its prior motion to dismiss ruling. With these edits, the Third Amended Complaint (hereinafter “TAC”, Dkt. 138) resolves all issues identified by the Court and adequately states a claim for each cause of action. Given the targeted amendments to the operative complaint, Google’s third attempt to dispose of claims in this action should be denied, allowing discovery to proceed.

8 First, for purposes of Plaintiffs’ California Invasion of Privacy Act Section 631 claim
9 (hereinafter “the CIPA claim”), Plaintiffs amended their allegations to plead that Google
10 intercepted Plaintiffs’ communications with third-party apps’ servers while those communications
11 were in transit. See TAC ¶¶ 3 n.2, 48, 51-52, 278. Even Google concedes that Plaintiffs cured the
12 issue identified by the Court. Mot. at 3 (admitting that Plaintiffs “added back in the allegation of
13 simultaneity”). Google now attempts to muddy these clear waters by recycling stale arguments
14 from its prior motion that are inapplicable and provide no basis for dismissal. Google then presents
15 its own rendition of the facts that is entirely consistent with Plaintiffs’ theory of in-transit
16 interception. Using the analogy of a phone call, Google admits that it “is there,” “listening,” and
17 “logging the details of the conversation.” Mot. at 9. Google’s Motion thus makes clear that the
18 parties do not have a factual dispute after all; instead, Google improperly seeks to relitigate this
19 Court’s rejection of its consent defense and the Ninth Circuit’s ruling on the party exception. The
20 Court should reject those efforts.

21 *Second*, to address the issues identified by the Court regarding the prior breach of contract
22 allegations, Plaintiffs now allege facts establishing a claim for breach of a unilateral contract. This
23 claim is based on the Google “Activity controls” webpage where Google’s WAA button is located.
24 As alleged, Plaintiffs accepted Google’s offer not by making a commitment to Google, but rather
25 through their performance (here, switching off the WAA button). Google does not contest that
26 Plaintiffs switched off the WAA button; instead, Google argues that although Google’s “Activity
27 controls” webpage made promises associated with Google’s WAA button and offered the button’s

1 use, those actions were meaningless and the promises inconsequential since Google was somehow
 2 not inviting users to click that button. Google's parsing logic makes no sense and should be
 3 rejected.

4 The contract claim is also sufficiently plead under Plaintiffs' alterative quasi-contract
 5 theory. Even if this Court concludes that Google's promises about WAA are not covered by any
 6 enforceable contract, the claim survives. Relief under a quasi-contract theory is available because
 7 Google's Terms of Service do not purport to cover Google's privacy features and, to the contrary,
 8 disclaim them. And the TAC cites key admissions by Google employees, uncovered through
 9 discovery, admitting that "we don't accurately describe what happens when WAA is off" and that
 10 "[w]e need to change the description to indicate even with the control off, Google retains this data
 11 and uses it for X purposes." TAC ¶¶ 260-61. Google knew that it should not be collecting app-
 12 activity data while users had WAA turned off, and yet Google continued doing so.

13 Google's arguments are unavailing and provide no basis for any dismissal. Plaintiffs
 14 respectfully request that the Court deny Google's motion and permit the parties to proceed with
 15 discovery on these claims.

16 **ARGUMENT**

17 Google provides insufficient grounds to dismiss any claim in this case. It is well-settled
 18 that a motion to dismiss must be denied if the complaint "state[s] a claim to relief that is plausible
 19 on its face." *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 678 (2009) (quoting *Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly*,
 20 550 U.S. 544, 570 (2007)). "A claim has facial plausibility when the plaintiff pleads factual content
 21 that allows the court to draw the reasonable inference that the defendant is liable for the misconduct
 22 alleged." *Id.* The court must "accept factual allegations in the complaint as true and construe the
 23 pleadings in the light most favorable to the nonmoving party." *Manzarek v. St. Paul Fire & Marine*
 24 *Ins. Co.*, 519 F.3d 1025, 1031 (9th Cir. 2008). Plaintiffs have satisfied this low burden and are
 25 entitled to move forward on both the CIPA and breach-of-contract, or alternative quasi-contract,
 26 claims.

27

28

I. Plaintiffs State a Claim Under CIPA Section 631.

2 After initially permitting Plaintiffs' CIPA claim to move forward, this Court dismissed the
3 claim as pleaded in the SAC on the basis that the amended complaint did not clearly allege that
4 the communications were intercepted while in transit. Dkt. 127 at 7. The Court granted Plaintiffs
5 leave to amend their allegations to correct this issue and Plaintiffs promptly did so. As Google
6 admits, the TAC fixes the problem by adding allegations to explain how and why in-transit
7 interception happens. Mot. at 3. But Google inexplicably still seeks to derail this claim by
8 relitigating previously rejected arguments and defenses. Motions to dismiss are not opportunities
9 to seek reconsideration. The law of the case already establishes that Plaintiffs did not consent to
10 having their information collected, and the Ninth Circuit settled the party-exception issue in
11 Plaintiffs' favor. The Court should allow this claim to move forward for the following reasons:
12 (A) the TAC alleges that Google intercepted the communications during transit; (B) the TAC once
13 again adequately alleges the lack of user consent; and (C) the TAC makes clear that Google is not
14 a "party" to the user-app communications.

A. The TAC Alleges That Google Intercepted The Communications During Transit.

1. The TAC fixes the SAC's deficiency.

Any deficiency that previously existed has been indisputably corrected by the TAC, which explicitly and clearly pleads that the communications were intercepted while in transit. TAC ¶¶ 3 n.2, 48, 51-52, 278. This Court dismissed the CIPA claim in the SAC because “whereas the FAC alleged Google simultaneously copied and acquired users’ third-party app communications, the SAC replaces that specific simultaneity with simultaneity between post-copying conduct and the data’s transmission to Google.” Dkt. 127 at 7 (comparing FAC, Dkt. 60 ¶ 49 with SAC, Dkt. 113 ¶ 49). The TAC, modeled after the FAC, alleges that “Google intercepts the communications as the communications are in transit to the app server, and Google simultaneously transmits a copy of the communications to Google.” TAC ¶ 278; *see also id.* ¶¶ 3 n.2, 48, 51-52. Google concedes that Plaintiffs have corrected the problem identified by the Court. Mot. at 3. And Google offers no argument why that correction doesn’t render the claim valid. The only case cited by Google, *Loos*

1 *v. Immersion Corp.*, is distinguishable. Mot. at 6. In that case, unlike here, the plaintiff “failed to
 2 correct the deficiencies identified [by the Court] in his original complaint.” 762 F.3d 880, 890 (9th
 3 Cir. 2014).

4 Beyond fixing the sole issue identified by the Court, the TAC bolsters the claims by adding
 5 new allegations explaining how and why Google intercepts the communications while they are in
 6 transit. *See* TAC ¶¶ 51-52. Google’s statement that Plaintiffs “simply added back in the allegation
 7 of simultaneity without a single additional factual allegation,” Mot. at 3, is false and proven so by
 8 the redline comparing the complaint versions. *See* Dkt. 138-2 at 19-20. Google’s decision to spend
 9 over three pages discussing the new allegations also belies any suggestion that the TAC lacks “a
 10 single additional factual allegation.” Mot. at 6-9.

11 Google’s other attacks on the revised allegations are also hollow and should be rejected.

12 First, Google’s “line of communication” argument is a straw man. Mot. at 7-8. Plaintiffs
 13 nowhere allege that an open line of communication is sufficient in and of itself. Plaintiffs instead
 14 allege that Google intercepts a user’s “request” to the app server for “content to be delivered to the
 15 user.” TAC ¶ 51; *see also id.* ¶ 47 (intercepted communications contain information including
 16 “what content the user has requested from the app”).

17 Second, Google’s argument that Real-Time Bidding (hereinafter “RTB”) “does not imply
 18 anything concerning the simultaneity or lack thereof of the collection of Google Analytics for
 19 Firebase on behalf of app developers,” is erroneous. Mot. at 9 n.3. Google does not deny that data
 20 collected through GA for Firebase can be used for RTB purposes. And strikingly absent from
 21 Google’s discussion is any mention of the two other accused products, Cloud Messaging and
 22 AdMob, i.e., a product relevant to in-app advertising. Google’s insinuation that paragraph 52 of
 23 the TAC “fails to allege the use of the ‘contents’ of any electronic communication in conjunction
 24 with” RTB is also flat wrong. Mot. at 9. Google appears to be looking at a different document
 25 since Paragraph 52 says the following:

26 The duplicated communications delivered simultaneously to Google
 27 include the user’s personal information, from the communication between
 28 the user and the third-party apps, ***such as the mobile app page being***
requested and the device from which the request is being made. This

1 simultaneous interception and transmission to Google enables Google to
 2 target the user with a targeted advertisement in real time. This means that
 3 when a user communicates with a third-party app to, for example, ***request app content related to flat screen televisions***, through the process described
 4 above, Google will simultaneously intercept the user's communication and
use it in real time to earn money by generating and serving the user an advertisement for flat screen televisions, in the third-party app.

5 TAC ¶ 52 (emphases added). Google's reliance on *Brodsky v. Apple Inc.* also hurts rather than
 6 helps it since, in that case, plaintiffs merely alleged that Apple intercepted their "user names and
 7 passwords." 445 F. Supp. 3d 110, 127 (N.D. Cal. 2020), Google's last RTB complaint positng
 8 that Plaintiffs never discussed RTB during any meet and confer is perplexing. Mot. at 9. Plaintiffs
 9 are not aware of any authority requiring parties to preview potential amendments for opposing
 10 counsel, and Google does not cite any.

11 2. The remaining allegations are consistent with Plaintiffs' theory.

12 Because the TAC indisputably pleads that the communications were intercepted while in
 13 transit and even provides examples of how this is done, Google resorts to repeating meritless
 14 attacks from its prior motion to dismiss—arguments that the Court correctly ignored. Mot. at 4-5.
 15 The factual allegations Google identifies are consistent with Plaintiffs' theory, and there was no
 16 need to change them. For example, as explained in the last opposition brief and within the TAC
 17 itself, Plaintiffs added the "through the device" allegations to the SAC to clarify that an app cannot
 18 communicate with an app server without going through the mobile device, Dkt. 121 at 6; TAC ¶ 3
 19 n.2, a technical point that Google conceded in the last Reply Brief, Dkt. 122 at 12. In its current
 20 Motion, Google does not even try to explain how these allegations undermine simultaneity, nor
 21 could Google because they are consistent with simultaneity.

22 The Google Mobile Service ("GMS") allegations are also consistent with Plaintiffs' theory.
 23 Google distorts these allegations to suggest that it only receives aggregated and already completed
 24 communications. Mot. at 4. But the TAC does not say that, and the SAC did not say that, either.
 25 Rather, Plaintiffs allege that GMS "concurrently aggregate[s] . . . intercepted messages across all
 26 the apps using Firebase SDK, so that user identity can be easily tracked across the apps, and so
 27 that browsing activity can be immediately associated and correlated for meaningful real-time

1 context.” TAC ¶ 56. The fact that Google uses GMS for, among other things, post-interception
 2 processes involving certain aggregation in no way undermines the clear allegation that Google first
 3 intercepts the communications while they are in transit, while WAA is off, to obtain that
 4 information. In any event, Google’s arguments about GMS only apply to Android devices, not iOS
 5 devices, the latter of which are an additional subclass. TAC ¶¶ 56, 231.

6 The basis of Plaintiffs’ CIPA claim is how Google’s Firebase SDK scripts intercept user-
 7 app communications while the same are in transit. *See* TAC ¶ 48 (“Through the Firebase SDK
 8 scripts, Google intercepts these communications while the same are in transit and simultaneously
 9 sends surreptitious copies of them to Google”); *see also id.* ¶¶ 3, 15, 46, 49-53, 55, 57, 58,
 10 60, 68, 123-24, 126, 231 (repeatedly referring to communications intercepted by way of the
 11 embedded Firebase scripts). After Plaintiffs explained all of this in the prior Opposition brief,
 12 Google’s Reply Brief had no answer, neglecting to even mention GMS. *See* Dkt. 122. Google’s
 13 recycled GMS argument is, again, meritless.

14 Google next tries to rewrite (and redraw) Plaintiffs’ allegations, seeking dismissal based
 15 on Google’s say-so regarding the facts in this case. Mot. at 5. The diagram to which Google refers
 16 was included in the First Amended Complaint, Dkt. 60, FAC ¶ 119, and yet Google tellingly did
 17 not argue that the FAC failed to allege in-transit interception. Google now alters the diagram,
 18 inserting the words “Time 1” and “Time 2” and omitting other parts. *Compare* Mot. at 5, *with* TAC
 19 ¶ 125. Google then adds a second diagram (created by Google) to depict the technical process at
 20 issue in *Davis v. Facebook*, 956 F.3d 589 (9th Cir. 2020), and Google criticizes the TAC insofar
 21 as the two diagrams look somewhat different.

22 Ironically, Plaintiffs’ first opposition brief cited the FAC’s diagram to show that the
 23 technical process here “resembles the challenged conduct in *Davis [v Facebook]*.” Dkt. 71 at 21
 24 n.8. More fundamentally, the technical process described in the TAC, like the FAC, is consistent
 25 with the technical process in *Davis*. *See also* Dkt. 71 (Pls.’ Opp’n to MTD FAC) at 19 (“Like
 26 Google, Facebook received copies of the communications through bits of embedded code, which
 27 caused the users’ browsers to generate copies of the communications and transmit them to

1 Facebook ‘through a separate, but simultaneous, channel in a manner undetectable by the user.’”¹
 2 (quoting *Davis*, 956 F.3d at 596, 607-08)). Plaintiffs here allege that the Firebase scripts cause
 3 their devices to duplicate and forward to Google communications intended only for the apps’
 4 servers, just like the *Davis* plaintiffs alleged that Facebook code caused their browsers to duplicate
 5 and forward messages intended only for websites’ servers. *Id.* at 607-608; *see also* TAC ¶¶ 48-61,
 6 125. The parties’ apparent dispute about how to draw the process alleged in *Davis* is an artistic
 7 dispute, which, like a factual dispute, is not a basis for dismissal.

8 Google’s remaining cases do not support the Motion. *Quigley v. Yelp, Inc.*, 2018 WL
 9 7204066, at *4 (N.D. Cal. Jan. 22, 2018) (Seeborg, J.), addressed “bare allegations” of
 10 “surreptitious surveillance” that lacked any explanation of “how or when any defendant became
 11 aware of his communications.” *Konop v. Hawaiian Airlines, Inc.*, 302 F.3d 868, 878 (9th Cir.
 12 2002) is further afield, particularly because the plaintiff did not even purport to allege an in-transit
 13 interception.¹ And *In re Yahoo Mail Litigation*, 308 F.R.D. 577, 590-91 (N.D. Cal. 2015), supports
 14 Plaintiffs. “[T]he parties dispute[d] whether Yahoo intercepts emails while ‘in transit or passing
 15 over any wire, line, or cable’” and yet the Court denied the motion to dismiss and subsequently
 16 certified a class on the CIPA § 631 claim. *Id.* Regardless, Google’s version of the facts is consistent
 17 with CIPA § 631 liability, as explained just below.

18 **B. Plaintiffs (Again) Plead A Lack of Consent.**

19 After telling the Court that Plaintiffs’ revised allegations show bad faith, Google proceeds
 20 to frame the facts in a way that actually reinforces Plaintiffs’ wiretapping theory. In its own words,
 21 Google “is there,” “listening” to users’ communications with app developers. Mot. at 10. Google
 22 acknowledges that it cannot do so “without the knowledge of all parties,” so Google assures the
 23 Court that “[e]veryone on the phone knows Google is there,” citing “disclosure[s] made to users
 24 by app developers.” *Id.* But Plaintiffs did not “know[] Google is there,” and the Court has already

25 ¹ The plaintiff asserted a federal Wiretap claim on the ground that his employer accessed his
 26 personal website without permission and thus learned about posts he published that were critical
 27 of the employer. There were no allegations that the posts were intercepted while in transit, nor
 28 could there have been. The issue for the Court was a legal question about whether the statute
 applied to a communication “while it is in electronic storage,” and the court said “no.” *Id.*

1 ruled for Plaintiffs on this question. Dkt. 109 at 10. This Court credited Plaintiffs' theory that
 2 Google's user-facing WAA disclosures "supersed[e] those app-specific disclosures." *Id.* at 8.
 3 Plaintiffs "offer a cogent account of why *they saw WAA as capable of turning off GA for*
 4 *Firebase's collection* of their third-party app data." *Id.* at 10 (emphasis added). Google therefore
 5 "intentionally taps, or makes [an] unauthorized connection" with a "telegraph or telephone wire,
 6 line, cable, or instrument" or "willfully and without the consent of all parties to the communication,
 7 or in any unauthorized manner, reads, or attempts to read, or to learn the contents or meaning of
 8 [a] . . . communication while the same is in transit or passing over any wire, line, or cable." CIPA
 9 § 631(a).

10 Google's suggestion that Plaintiffs have "never taken issue with" GA for Firebase's
 11 collection of data (Mot. at 10) is also belied by this Court's Order. Dkt. 109 at 1. In the Court's
 12 words, this case is about a "Google technology that, *when functioning as advertised* in a given
 13 app, contravenes the company's user-facing privacy representations." *Id.* (emphasis added).
 14 "[P]laintiffs allege Google's *capture and analysis of data via GA for Firebase, on behalf of app*
 15 *developers who knowingly utilize that service*, violates the WAA Materials' representations to
 16 individuals who have disabled the WAA feature. Under this theory of liability, **GA for Firebase—**
 17 ***when running as marketed***—allows Google to collect information about an individual's 'activity
 18 on . . . apps . . . that use Google services,' notwithstanding the WAA Materials' statement that '[t]o
 19 let Google save this information . . . Web & App Activity must be on.'" *Id.* at 6 (emphases added).

20 Google improperly tries to conflate Plaintiffs' in-transit interception allegations with their
 21 allegations about Google's subsequent use of the data. Mot. at 11; *see also* TAC ¶¶ 117-41
 22 (alleging that "Google profits from the data it collects . . . in at least three ways," namely, creating
 23 user profiles, directing targeted advertisements to users, and improving Google products). CIPA
 24 separately applies both to the initial collection and the subsequent use. *See* CIPA § 631(a) (also
 25 applying to any person "who uses, or attempts to use, in any manner, or for any purpose, or to
 26 communicate in any way, any information so obtained"). Plaintiffs' post-collection "use"
 27 allegations also support Plaintiffs' CDAFA, common law, and constitutional claims. *See* Dkt. 71

1 at 13, 19-21.

2 The upshot is that Google lacks “the consent of *all* parties to the communication” (i.e., both
 3 the app developers and the users). CIPA § 631(a). “[U]nder section 631(a), if a person secretly
 4 listens to another’s conversation, the person is liable.” *Graham v. Noom, Inc.*, 2021 WL 1312765,
 5 at *4 (N.D. Cal. Apr. 8, 2021). Here, when WAA was switched off, Google was a secret listener.

6 **C. Google Is Not a “Party” To The User-App Communications.**

7 Finally, Google’s attempt to relitigate the party exception accomplishes nothing other than
 8 to confirm Plaintiffs’ theory on Google’s simultaneous interception. Google’s argument depends
 9 on Google receiving the communications *at the same time* as the apps’ servers. Accordingly, the
 10 parties appear not to have a factual dispute, but rather a legal dispute that courts have resolved in
 11 Plaintiffs’ favor.

12 The party exception does not apply to companies like Google and Facebook that embed
 13 their code into third-party websites and apps for purposes of causing the browser or device to
 14 redirect communications. *See Davis v. Facebook*, 956 F.3d 589, 608 (9th Cir. 2020) (“Facebook
 15 is not exempt from liability as a matter of law under the Wiretap Act or CIPA as a party to the
 16 communication.”); *Calhoun v. Google LLC*, 2021 WL 1056532, at *8 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 17, 2021)
 17 (plaintiffs stated CIPA section 631 claim based on allegations that embedded Google code caused
 18 browsers to redirect user-website communications to Google servers); *Brown v. Google LLC*, 2021
 19 WL 949372, at *15 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 12, 2021) (same). Despite citing *Davis* five times within the
 20 Motion’s CIPA section, Google somehow omits this key part of *Davis*’s holding. Google instead
 21 cites a 1975 case, which is also inapposite because the defendant in that case recorded
 22 conversations between *himself* and the plaintiff. *See Rogers v. Ulrich*, 52 Cal. App. 3d 894, 898-
 23 99 (1975).

24 Courts have also repeatedly rejected Google’s “vendor” immunity argument. *Saleh v. Nike, Inc.*, 2021 WL 4437734, at *1 (C.D. Cal. Sept. 27, 2021), is squarely on point. *Saleh* was about
 25 FullStory, a software company that “embeds snippets of code that . . . record, in real time, ‘a
 26 visitor’s every move on a website.’” *Id.* FullStory made the exact same argument that Google
 27

1 makes here. *Compare id.* at *10 (“According to Defendants, because FullStory provides a service
 2 to Nike, ‘FullStory cannot be considered a third party to Plaintiff’s alleged communications with
 3 Nike.’”), *with Mot.* at 4 (arguing that Google cannot be liable under section 631 insofar as “Google
 4 is acting as a transcribing vendor for the app developer”).

5 The *Saleh* court rejected Google’s argument, reasoning that accepting it would destroy
 6 CIPA’s protections:

7 Defendants’ argument would imply that any third party who surreptitiously
 8 recorded a conversation between two parties would not violate § 631(a) so
 9 long as it was recording the conversation at the direction and for the benefit
 10 of a party. The text of section 631(a), however, does not contain any such
 exception, and indeed, Defendants invite an interpretation that would vitiate
 the statute’s protections.

11 *Id.* at *11. “FullStory did not become a ‘party’ to the communication simply because it was
 12 providing recording and transmission services for Nike.” *Id.*² The same is true for Google vis-à-
 13 vis third-party apps, as alleged in this case.

14 *Revitch v. New Moosejaw, LLC*, 2019 WL 5485330, at *1 (N.D. Cal. Oct. 23, 2019), is also
 15 on point. The plaintiffs stated a CIPA section 631 claim based on allegations that a third-party
 16 service provider “eavesdropped on [plaintiff’s] communications with [the] Moosejaw [website]
 17 because the code embedded into the Moosejaw.com pages functioned as a wiretap that redirected
 18 his communications to [the service provider] while [the plaintiff] browsed the site.” *Id. Saleh*
 19 specifically relied on *New Moosejaw*, reiterating the latter’s holding “that a third-party
 20 eavesdropper does not become a party to a communication merely by directly receiving the
 21 communication.” 2021 WL 44377344, at *11.³ The same outcome is warranted here. So long as
 22 WAA is switched off, Google is eavesdropping on Plaintiffs’ communications with third-party

23 ² The plaintiff alleged CIPA § 631 claims against both Nike and FullStory. The claims against
 24 FullStory were dismissed for lack of personal jurisdiction. *Id.* at *6. The court dismissed the
 25 § 631 claim as to Nike on the ground that Nike was a party to the communications. *Id.* at *10. The
 26 court’s holding that FullStory is a third-party to the communications was relevant to the plaintiff’s
 claim against Nike for aiding and abetting FullStory’s § 631 violation, and the court ruled for the
 plaintiff on that claim.

27 ³ The Supreme Court of California also recently clarified that CIPA’s prohibitions apply to both
 28 participants and non-participants. *See Smith v. LoanMe, Inc.*, 11 Cal. 5th 183, 192-93 (2021).

1 apps, unbeknownst to users and without their consent, and therefore in violation of CIPA § 631.

2 **II. Plaintiffs State a Breach-of-Contract Claim.**

3 The TAC’s new contract theory, which clearly articulates a claim for breach-of-contract
 4 under a unilateral acceptance theory, is based on a different Google webpage and a different type
 5 of contract than the theory presented in the SAC. The SAC alleged that a particular WAA Help
 6 Page constitutes a standalone bilateral contract. Dkt. 127 at 5. The TAC, by contrast, alleges breach
 7 of a *unilateral* contract, relying on a different Google webpage (the “Activity controls” webpage)
 8 as well as the identical Android settings menu. TAC ¶¶ 242-48. The key difference between the
 9 SAC’s WAA Help Page and the TAC’s “Activity controls” page is that the latter contains the
 10 actual WAA button. TAC ¶¶ 245-48. As alleged, Google was contractually required to stop
 11 collecting third-party app data from users who switched off WAA, but Google continued to do so.
 12 TAC ¶¶ 244, 262-63. Plaintiffs’ new theory does not “circumvent the Court’s ruling.” Mot. at 11.
 13 The Court granted Plaintiffs leave to amend, and Plaintiffs have done just that. The new theory
 14 (A) fixes prior problems by alleging the existence of a unilateral contract; (B) alleges that Google
 15 made promises not to collect third-party app data when WAA is off; and (C) alleges that Google
 16 breached those promises.

17 **A. Plaintiffs’ New Unilateral Contract Theory Fixes Prior Problems.**

18 The TAC’s revised breach-of-contract theory fixes the problems identified by this Court in
 19 the prior ruling. The SAC alleged that a Google WAA Help Page constitutes a standalone bilateral
 20 contract. This Court dismissed that claim because “‘for a contract to exist’ in this context, the
 21 document needs to ‘outline shared commitments to which users must abide.’” Dkt. 127 at 5-6
 22 (quoting *Davis*, 956 F.3d at 610). “That the WAA Help Page fails to do so (indeed, it asks *nothing*
 23 of users) precludes it from functioning as a standalone contract” *Id.*; *see also id.* at 5
 24 (“[P]laintiffs do not allege their having secured that document’s terms with valid consideration.”).

25 That mutuality principle does not apply to Plaintiffs’ revised theory—breach of *unilateral*
 26 contract. “In contrast to a bilateral contract, a unilateral contract involves the exchange of a
 27 promise for a performance.” *Sateriale v. R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.*, 697 F.3d 777, 785 (9th Cir.
 28

1 2012); *see also* 1 Witkin, Summary 11th Contracts § 105 (distinguishing bilateral contracts, “in
 2 which there are mutual promises, a promise being given in consideration of another promise,” from
 3 unilateral contracts, “in which a promise is given in exchange for some act, forbearance or thing”).
 4 Here, Google promised not to collect Plaintiffs’ third-party app data if Plaintiffs took a specific
 5 action (switching off WAA). Plaintiffs allege acceptance of that offer “by rendering a performance
 6 rather than providing a promise,” namely, switching off WAA. *Sateriale*, 697 F.3d at 785.

7 *Sateriale* is instructive. The plaintiffs in *Sateriale* failed to allege an enforceable bilateral
 8 contract because although “the plaintiffs have identified an alleged promise by [the defendant] . . .
 9 . they have not pointed to any promise they made to [the defendant.]” 697 F.3d at 785. But the
 10 court rejected the defendant’s “reliance on mutuality of obligation” as applied to the plaintiffs’
 11 unilateral theory because “that doctrine does not apply to unilateral contracts.” *Id.* at 791.

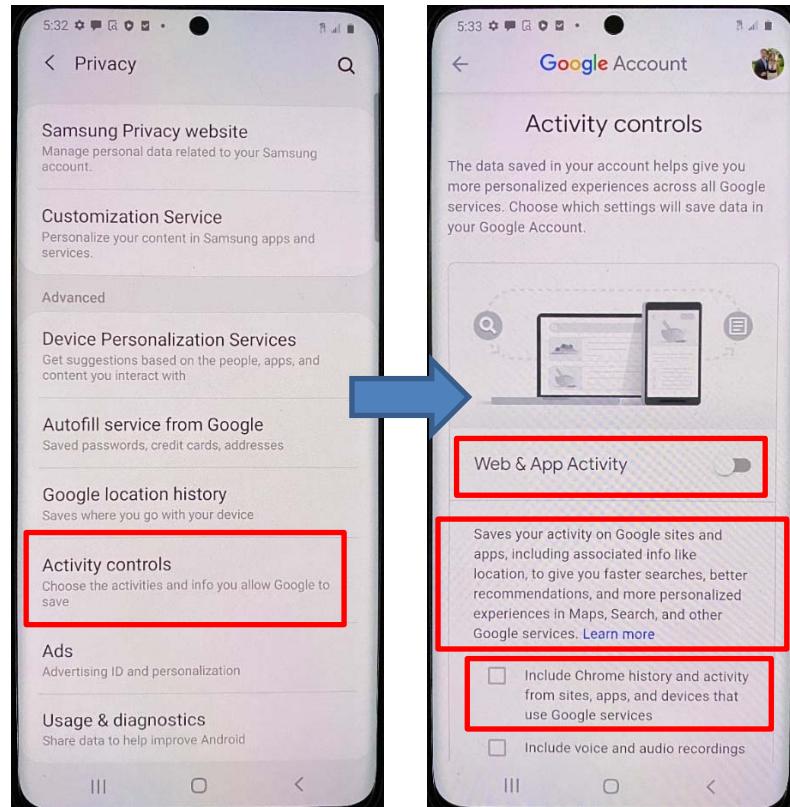
12 Here, Plaintiffs likewise allege a unilateral contract. In a unilateral contract, “any act or
 13 forbearance . . . may constitute consideration for the promise.” *Asmus v. Pac. Bell*, 23 Cal. 4th 1,
 14 10 (Cal. 2000). Plaintiffs provided such consideration by switching off WAA and continuing to
 15 use Google services, including third-party apps that use GA for Firebase, AdMob, and Cloud
 16 Messaging. TAC ¶¶ 250-53. That is sufficient. “Courts will not require equivalence in the values
 17 exchanged or otherwise question the adequacy of the consideration. If a performance is bargained
 18 for, there is no further requirement of benefit to the promisor or detriment to the promisee.” *Harris*
 19 *v. Time, Inc.*, 191 Cal. App. 3d 449, 456 (Cal. Ct. App. 1987) (citation omitted); *see also Dahl v.*
 20 *HEM Pharms. Corp.*, 7 F.3d 1399, 1404-05 (9th Cir. 1993) (“[Defendant] argues that because
 21 petitioners participated voluntarily and were free to withdraw, they had no binding obligation and
 22 so gave no consideration. Somehow the category of unilateral contracts appears to have escaped
 23 [Defendant’s] notice.”).

24
 25
 26
 27
 28

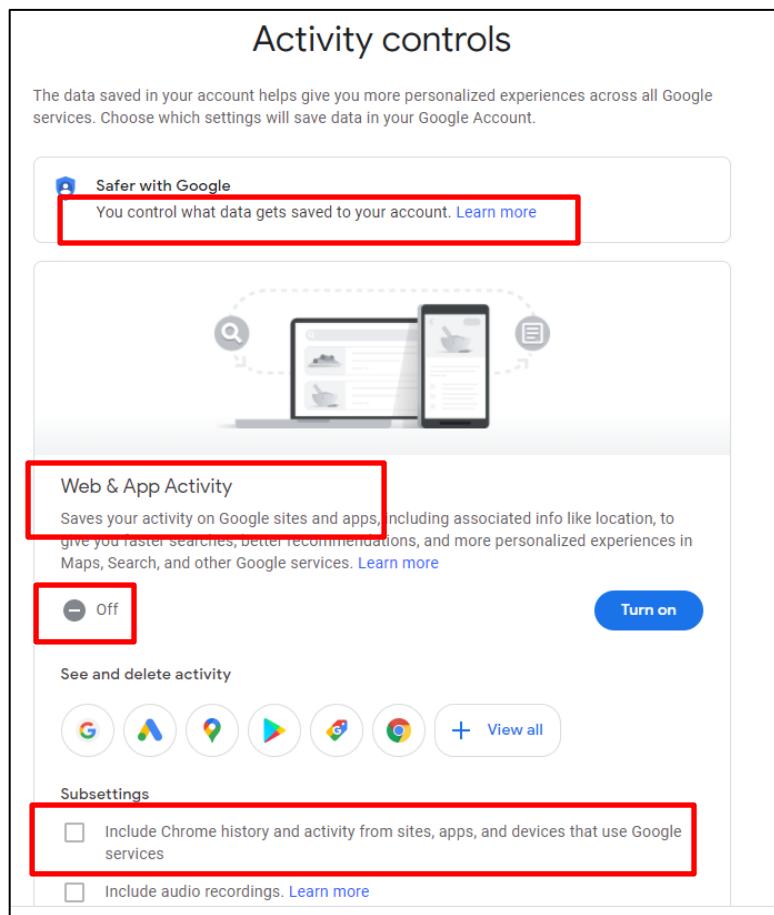
1 **B. Google Promised To Not Collect Third-Party App Activity Provided That
2 Plaintiffs Turned Off WAA.**

3 Google's WAA button is located in the Android settings menu and in the identical
4 "Activity controls" Google webpage. In both places, Google promised (and still promises) to stop
5 collecting third-party app data provided that users switched off WAA:

6 Android Settings Menu (TAC ¶¶ 65-66, 245-46)



1 “Activity controls” Google Webpage (TAC ¶¶ 247-48)



In the Android settings menu, Google promised that “you can [c]hoose the activities and info you allow Google to save.” On Google’s “Activity controls” webpage, Google similarly promised that “you control what data gets saved to your account.” In both places, Google’s WAA button is presented as the control, and users may switch WAA “on” or “off.” Google also promised that the “control” applies to “activity from . . . apps . . . that use Google services.” And the box next to that subsetting cannot be checked so long as WAA is switched to “off.” TAC ¶¶ 246, 248. Google thus promised users that if they switched off WAA, Google would not collect their activity on apps that use Google services, which according to the Privacy Policy, include “[p]roducts that are integrated into third-party apps” (e.g., GA for Firebase). TAC Ex. A at 1.

Google’s argument that it “promise[]d nothing about precisely how the WAA setting will or will not function, or what data Google will or will not receive” (Mot. at 14) contradicts this

1 Court's prior Order, and is also a remarkable claim given how central this WAA control is in terms
 2 of Google's privacy promises. This Court already held that Google ““set an expectation’ that it
 3 would not save plaintiffs' ‘activity on . . . apps . . . that use Google services’ unless plaintiffs turned
 4 WAA ‘on.’” Dkt. 109 at 16 (alterations in original) (citation omitted); *id.* at 13 (“[P]laintiffs,
 5 pointing to the WAA [Help Page], plausibly demonstrate an objectively reasonable expectation
 6 that their communications with third-party apps would not be recorded by Google.” (internal
 7 quotation marks omitted)); *id.* at 8 (the Privacy Policy's definition of “Google services” “permits
 8 the inference that GA for Firebase is a ‘Google service’—that is, a ‘[p]roduct[] that [is] integrated
 9 into third party apps[]’” (alterations in original)). True, this Court was evaluating the WAA Help
 10 Page and not the same “Activity controls” page at issue here. But Google concedes that the
 11 documents share “nearly identical language.” Mot. at 11; *see also* TAC ¶¶ 256-57 (WAA Help
 12 Page). With these disclosures, Google intended for users to interpret WAA exactly as plaintiffs
 13 did, and Google knew that users were misled. TAC ¶¶ 8-9, 37, 83, 255, 260-61. Plaintiffs ask that
 14 the Court, again, reject Google's claim that Google's promises were just meaningless words.

15 Even Google's own employees disagree with its counsel's argument that Google's WAA
 16 disclosures “promise nothing” about how WAA works or the data Google receives. Mot. at 14:

17 **Today, we don't accurately describe what happens when WAA is off.**

18 [G]iven the way on/off works, one has to then assume that disabled (off)
 19 would be the exact opposite of what is described for what happens when the
 WAA bit is on.

20 **The WAA and other controls imply we don't log the data, but obviously
 we do.**

21 TAC ¶ 261 (citing GOOG-RDGZ-00024698-99) (emphases added).

22 *In re Facebook, Inc., Consumer Privacy User Profile Litigation*, 402 F. Supp. 3d 767, 801
 23 (N.D. Cal. 2019) is instructive. Those plaintiffs stated a breach of contract claim based on a
 24 provision resembling the one here: “You own all of the content and information you post on
 25 Facebook, and *you can control* how it is shared through your privacy and application settings.” *Id.*
 26 (emphasis added). The promise here is even more explicit, particularly because it identifies WAA
 27 as the specific feature that controls Google's collection of app-activity data. Like Facebook,
 28

1 Google breached its promises—here, by collecting and using app activity information without
 2 permission. *See also In re Google Assistant Privacy Litig.*, 2021 WL 2711747, at *11 (N.D. Cal.
 3 July 1, 2021) (plaintiffs stated contract claim based on provision in the Google Privacy Policy
 4 describing how “We collect information about your activity in our services”).

5 *Block v. eBay, Inc.*, 747 F.3d 1135, 1139 (9th Cir. 2014), is inapposite. Mot. at 13-14. The
 6 plaintiff claimed that eBay breached a provision in the user agreement stating that “We are not
 7 involved in the actual transaction between buyers and sellers.” *Id.* The court disagreed, reasoning
 8 that this provision was part of a Limitation of Liability section that provided a “broad description
 9 of the eBay marketplace [] to explain to eBay’s users why its liability is more limited than that of
 10 a ‘traditional auctioneer.’” *Id.* at 1139. Here, by contrast, the operative statements are not part of
 11 any limitation-of-liability provision. Another key difference is the statements here make a
 12 commitment to *users* about what they can do. *See* TAC ¶¶ 247-48 (promising that “*you control*
 13 what data gets saved to your account . . . [,] [i]nclud[ing] activity from . . . apps . . . that use Google
 14 services,” and providing the WAA button as the control (emphasis added)).

15 *Donohue v. Apple, Inc.*, 871 F. Supp. 2d 913, 918 (N.D. Cal. 2012) is also distinguishable.
 16 Mot. at 14-15. That case was about a “defective” signal meter in various iPhone models. *Id.* The
 17 plaintiff argued that Apple breached a contractual commitment within the “instructional manual”
 18 that accompanies every iPhone insofar as the manual explained what the signal meter was
 19 supposed to do. *Id.* at 930. The court disagreed, reasoning that “[o]n these facts, adopting the
 20 position that an instructional manual is a contract would vastly expand the scope of a
 21 manufacturer’s express and implied warranties.” *Id.* at 931. Unlike *Donohue*, this is not a warranty
 22 case about a defective product. WAA is functioning as Google designed it to function. The problem
 23 is that Google over-promised. Once again, Google employees acknowledge this problem with
 24 Google’s promises: “We need to change the description to indicate even with the control off,
 25 Google retains this data and uses it for X purposes. . . . If we are storing data that the user does not
 26 have access to, we need to be clear about that fact.” TAC ¶ 261 (citing GOOG-RDGZ-00024698).

27 Google next argues that its “Activity controls” webpage did not invite performance of a
 28

1 specific act. Mot. at 15-16 (pointing out that the statements in *Sateriale* “invited the performance
 2 of specific acts,” and attempting to distinguish this case). This is specious logic. Google was of
 3 course inviting Plaintiffs to use the WAA button. Why provide it if Plaintiffs were not supposed
 4 to use it? Google’s “Activity controls” page contained the actual WAA button, and allowed users
 5 to “turn on” WAA or “off.” TAC ¶¶ 245-48. And Google promised users that the WAA button
 6 provides “control” over the data that Google “[s]aves” from “your activity” on “apps that use
 7 Google services.” Plaintiffs reasonably understood Google to be inviting them to exercise that
 8 control by turning “off” WAA. *See Rodman v. Safeway, Inc.*, 2011 WL 5241113, at *2 (N.D. Cal.
 9 Nov. 1, 2011) (denying motion to dismiss “[b]ecause Plaintiff adequately alleges the existence of
 10 a contract . . . which is susceptible to Plaintiff’s reasonable construction”).

11 “[C]ourts in construing and applying a standardized contract seek to effectuate the
 12 reasonable expectations of the average member of the public who accepts it.” *Williams v. Apple*
 13 *Inc.*, 2021 WL 2186223, at *5 (N.D. Cal. May 28, 2021); *see also In re Facebook, Inc., Consumer*
 14 *Privacy User Profile Litig.*, 402 F. Supp. 3d at 789 (“[T]he contract language must be assessed
 15 objectively, from the perspective of a reasonable . . . user”). Google even agrees that the language
 16 should be interpreted based on “[a] reasonable person” standard. Mot. at 16 (arguing about what
 17 “[a] reasonable person would . . . take [the language] to mean”). True, these cases concerned
 18 bilateral contracts. But in Google’s own words, “[t]he fact that [a case] concerned a bilateral
 19 contract does not change this conclusion.” Mot. at 14.

20 Google’s reliance on *Harris* and *Sateriale* is misplaced. Mot. at 15-16. Those cases support
 21 Plaintiffs. Like the promises in *Harris* and *Sateriale*, the “Activity controls” page “invited the
 22 performance of specific acts [turning off WAA] without further communication, and leaving
 23 nothing for negotiation.” *Sateriale*, 697 F.3d at 788. The “surrounding circumstances” also support
 24 Plaintiffs’ interpretation. Mot. at 16. This Court already credited Plaintiffs’ interpretation of the
 25 WAA Help Page, which is linked to Google’s “Activity controls” page. *See* ¶¶ 256-57; Dkt. 109
 26 at 8, 13, 16. Other Google disclosures reinforce Plaintiffs’ understanding, including a separate
 27 Google webpage that describes WAA as a “powerful privacy control[] . . . which allow[s] you to

1 *switch the collection and use of data on or off*” “across Google services.” TAC ¶ 258 (emphasis
2 added). The only “surrounding circumstances” that Google mentions are unidentified explanations
3 of “various [Google] settings” that are not addressed in the Complaint. Mot. at 16.

4 *Frezza v. Google Inc.*, 2013 WL 1736788, at *3 (N.D. Cal. Apr. 22, 2013) is inapposite.
5 Mot. at 16. The contract claim in that case was based on blog postings advertising a “Google Tags”
6 free-trial promotion, which directed customers to the “signup page” and a “help center” webpage
7 “for more details.” *Id.* at *1. The court held that it was unreasonable for the plaintiffs to interpret
8 the blog postings to mean that they could enroll in the free trial merely by visiting the “signup
9 page” or “help center” page. *Id.* at *3. More was plainly required; for example, “the plaintiffs
10 acknowledge[d] that ‘[i]n order to commence enrollment . . . , Google required the customers to
11 first provide a credit card.’” *Id.* (second alteration in original). Here, on the other hand, Google’s
12 “Activity controls” page presented Google’s WAA button to users and permitted them to switch it
13 on or off. There was nothing more for Plaintiffs to do.

C. Google Breached Its Contractual Obligation To Not Collect Plaintiffs' App Activity While They Had WAA Turned Off.

The TAC finally states a claim by alleging that Google breached its commitment by continuing to collect and use users' app activity after they switched off WAA, including by way of Google's Firebase SDK with Google products such as GA for Firebase, AdMob, and Cloud Messaging. TAC ¶¶ 260-62. Google admits to this conduct for at least GA for Firebase. *See, e.g.*, Dkt. 62 at 4. Internal emails among Google employees likewise substantiate the breach: "WAA (or any of the other controls) does not actually control what is stored by Google, but simply what the user has access to." TAC ¶ 260 (quoting GOOG-RDGZ-00024698).

22 Grasping at straws, Google falls back on an argument this Court already rejected, namely,
23 that Google’s “Activity controls” page only described “what can be *saved* to a users’ account”
24 (Mot. at 16 (emphasis in original)), with Google free to collect and otherwise save app activity
25 information while WAA is off using all types of “digital buckets” and “spigots” for that data
26 collection. In its first motion to dismiss, Google made the same argument about the WAA Help
27 Page. See Dkt. 62 at 7. This Court disagreed: “That plaintiffs did not first perceive the precise

1 contours of a Google Account, before arriving at their averred understanding of the WAA feature,
 2 does not doom their claim.” Dkt. 109 at 9 (Opinion denying in part MTD FAC).

3 [T]he WAA Materials’ statement that turning WAA on or off governs
 4 whether data is “saved in” a user’s “Google Account” does not clearly
 5 exclude GA for Firebase from the WAA feature’s operative scope. This
 6 finding follows another: the concept of a “Google Account” is, at best,
 7 nebulous. . . . The average internet user is not a full-stack engineer; he or
 she should not be treated as one when Google explains which digital data
 goes into which digital buckets, and where the corresponding spigots might
 be found.

8 *Id.* at 8-9. The same outcome is warranted here, particularly because Google concedes that the
 9 WAA Help Page is “nearly identical” to the “Activity controls” page. Mot. at 11.

10 Google’s cases are inapposite. The footnote quoted from *Davis v. Facebook*, 956 F.3d at
 11 610 n.11, explained that the plaintiffs could not state a claim concerning *Facebook*’s collection of
 12 information based on a provision addressing the information “third-party websites” would receive.
 13 Mot. at 17. The claim here is based on statements about *Google*’s collection of data. And the claim
 14 in *London v. New Albertson’s, Inc.*, 2008 WL 4492642, at *6 (S.D. Cal. Sept. 30, 2008) was
 15 dismissed because the plaintiff’s allegations about the defendant’s conduct were “conclusory.”

16 **D. The Terms of Services’ Limitation-of-Liability Clauses Do Not Apply.**

17 Google’s request to limit Plaintiffs’ damages for their breach-of-contract claim is
 18 procedurally improper and substantively meritless. In the prior motion to dismiss, Google moved
 19 to strike Plaintiffs’ request for non-restitutionary disgorgement and consequential damages under
 20 Rule 12(f). Dkt. 115 at 21. Plaintiffs pointed out that “Rule 12(f) does not authorize district courts
 21 to strike claims for damages on the ground that such claims are precluded as a matter of law.”
 22 *Whittlestone, Inc. v. Handi-Craft Co.*, 618 F.3d 970, 974-75 (9th Cir. 2010). Google now
 23 recharacterizes their request as a Rule 12(b)(6) motion. But “[r]ecent court decisions have held
 24 that because a prayer for relief is a remedy and not a claim, a Rule 12(b)(6) motion to dismiss for
 25 failure to state a claim is not a proper vehicle to challenge a plaintiff’s prayer for [certain] damages,
 26 because Rule 12(b)(6) only countenances dismissal for failure to state a claim.” *Elias v.*
 27 *Navasartian*, 2017 WL 1013122, at *4 (E.D. Cal. Feb. 17, 2017) (citing cases).

1 Even if the Court could dismiss portions of Plaintiffs' damages, there would be no grounds
 2 to do so. First, the clause Google cites only applies to breaches of Google's Terms of Service:

3 To the extent permitted by law, the total liability of Google, and its suppliers
 4 and distributors, *for any claims under these terms*, including for any implied
 5 warranties, is limited to the amount you paid us to use the services (or, if
 6 we choose, to supplying you the services again).

7 Santacana Ex. B at 5 (pre-March 2020 Terms of Service) (capitalization omitted and emphasis
 8 added). Unlike with the SAC, the claim here is not based on "these terms." Plaintiffs' claim is for
 9 breach of a separate, standalone unilateral contract. The Terms of Service could have added "or
 10 additional terms" to the limitation-of-liability clause, but it did not, despite distinguishing "these
 11 terms" from "additional terms" elsewhere. *See, e.g.*, Ex. B at 4 (referencing what is "set out in
 12 these terms or additional terms"). "Although [Google (perhaps)] could have drafted its limitation
 13 provision to achieve the result it now seeks, it did not." *Rodman v. Safeway Inc.*, 125 F. Supp. 3d
 14 922, 930 (N.D. Cal. 2015), *aff'd*, 694 F. App'x 612 (9th Cir. 2017). Instead, the Terms of Service
 15 contemplated that Google and users could enter into separate contracts. *See* Ex. B at 1 ("Our
 16 Services are very diverse, so sometimes additional terms or product requirements (including age
 17 requirements) may apply."). The limitation clause does not apply to the contract at issue here. At
 18 best, Google's argument raises an ambiguity as to whether the limitation applies. But "contractual
 19 clauses seeking to limit liability will be strictly construed and any ambiguities resolved against the
 20 party seeking to limit its liability." *Safeway*, 125 F. Supp. 3d at 928.

21 Google makes a different argument about the post-March 2020 Terms of Service, but that
 22 argument fails too. Mot. at 19. That version states that "Other than the rights and responsibilities
 23 described in this section (In case of problems or disagreements), Google won't be responsible for
 24 any other losses, unless they're caused by our breach of these terms or service-specific additional
 25 terms"). Santacana Ex. A at 11. Google interprets this provision as a sort of damages-focused
 26 merger clause, arguing that "Plaintiffs cannot recover damages for alleged breaches of terms other
 27 than those in the Terms of Service." Mot. at 19. Google does not make the same argument about
 28 the prior versions of the Terms of Service so, at best, Google's argument only precludes non-
 restitutive disgorgement as of March 2020. In any event, Google's argument fails because non-

1 restitutionary disgorgement is not a “loss.” *See In re Google Assistant Privacy Litig.*, 457 F. Supp.
 2 3d 797, 840 (N.D. Cal. 2020) (“[N]onrestitutionary disgorgement focuses on the defendant’s
 3 unjust enrichment.”). The provision Google cites is limited to Google’s responsibility for “losses.”

4 Tellingly, Google’s argument here is one that Google has not even made in other recent
 5 cases. In *In re Google Assistant Privacy Litigation*, the plaintiffs likewise requested non-
 6 restitutionary disgorgement from Google for breach of contract, but Google did not argue that the
 7 Terms of Service preclude such relief. Dkt. 5:19-cv-04286, ECF No. 120 at 18. The Court
 8 ultimately held that plaintiffs adequately pleaded an entitlement to disgorgement of profits for
 9 Google’s breach of its Privacy Policy (as incorporated into the Terms of Service). *In re Google*
 10 *Assistant Privacy Litig.*, 2021 WL 2711747, at *14 (N.D. Cal. July 1, 2021). If non-restitutionary
 11 disgorgement is available for breach of the Google Terms of Service, then it is certainly available
 12 for breach of the separate, standalone contract at issue in this case.

13 Google’s cases are also distinguishable. *Bass v. Facebook, Inc.*, 394 F. Supp. 3d 1024,
 14 1037 (N.D. Cal. 2019), was a data breach case, and the court ruled that Facebook’s Terms of
 15 Service precluded liability because it stated that “we make no guarantees that [our products] always
 16 will be safe, secure, or error-free.” *Huynh v. Quora, Inc.*, 2019 WL 11502875, at *1 (N.D. Cal.
 17 Dec. 19, 2019) was also data breach case for which a limitation-of-liability clause precluded
 18 liability. The operative clause in *Lewis v. YouTube, LLC*, 244 Cal. App. 4th 118, 125 (Cal. Ct.
 19 App. 2015) precluded liability for “errors or omissions in any content,” which the court interpreted
 20 to encompass the plaintiff’s claim for deleting content. *Darnaa, LLC v. Google LLC*, 756 F. App’x
 21 674 (9th Cir. 2018) addressed a similar content-removal challenge, which turned on the same
 22 “errors or omissions in any content” exclusion. By contrast, the Google Terms of Service does not
 23 preclude liability for the challenged conduct here. Nor could it. No limitation-of-liability clause
 24 permits Google to lie about its privacy controls.

25 Relatedly, the current Terms of Service clarifies that it does not limit Google’s liability for
 26 “willful misconduct,” Ex. A at 11, which is what Plaintiffs have alleged here, *see TAC ¶¶ 8-9, 37,*
 27 *83, 251, 255, 260-61, 269* (alleging with examples that Google knew users misunderstood WAA

1 and yet did nothing to correct the problem). To the extent either version of the Terms of Service is
 2 interpreted to prohibit Plaintiffs from recovering any of the damages they seek, the provisions
 3 should be disregarded as unconscionable.⁴

4 **III. Plaintiffs Alternatively State a Quasi-Contract (Unjust Enrichment) Claim.**

5 Should the Court reject Plaintiffs' unilateral contract theory, Plaintiffs alternatively plead
 6 a valid quasi-contract (unjust enrichment) claim. TAC ¶¶ 266-71. Google's accusation that
 7 Plaintiffs "exceed the spirit of the Court's authorization" is unwarranted. Mot. at 20. This Court
 8 granted Plaintiffs leave to amend their contract claim, Dkt. 127 at 8, and Plaintiffs have done so,
 9 including by alleging two alternative theories: unilateral contract and quasi-contract.

10 If the Court rejects Plaintiffs' unilateral contract theory, then there is no contract governing
 11 the same subject matter, and Plaintiffs are entitled to relief under a quasi-contract theory. *See*
 12 *Cheung v. Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.*, 987 F. Supp. 2d 972, 979 (N.D. Cal. 2013) (Seeborg, J.) (quasi-
 13 contract claim appropriate when there is no "contract governing the same subject matter"). Google
 14 claims that the Terms of Service cover the same subject matter, but the argument fails.

15 First, Google only cites the post-March 2020 Terms of Service. Mot. at 21 (claiming that
 16 the Terms of Service "governs the same topic: users who 'interact with [Google's] services.'"')
 17 (alteration in original) (citing Santacana Ex. A at 1)). And Google omits the full text: the Terms
 18

19 ⁴ "The Ninth Circuit has held that a contract is procedurally unconscionable under California law
 20 if it is a standardized contract, drafted by the party of superior bargaining strength, that relegates
 21 to the subscribing party only the opportunity to adhere to the contract or reject it." *In re Yahoo!*
Inc. Customer Data Sec. Breach Litig., 313 F. Supp. 3d 1113, 1136-37 (N.D. Cal. 2018). Here,
 22 exactly as in *In re Yahoo*, the "liability limitations appear near the end of the 12-page legal Terms
 23 of Service document where the Terms of Service are contained in an adhesion contract and
 24 customers may not negotiate or modify any terms." *Id.*

25 Google's interpretation also renders the clauses substantively unconscionable because they would
 26 preclude "nearly every type of damages claim." *Silicon Valley Self Direct, LLC v. Paychex, Inc.*,
 27 2015 WL 4452373, at *6 (N.D. Cal. July 20, 2015). "California courts have . . . concluded that
 28 limitations are substantively unconscionable when they guarantee[] that plaintiffs could not
 possibly obtain anything approaching full recompense for their harm." *In re Yahoo*, 313 F. Supp.
 3d at 1137. Google's interpretation would preclude not only nonrestitutionary disgorgement and
 consequential damages, but also Plaintiffs' prayer for compensatory damages, including the value
 of the data that Google wrongfully collected. TAC ¶¶ 143-63, 265.

1 “*help* define Google’s relationship with you as you interact with our services.” (emphasis added).
 2 The use of “*help*” shows that the Terms do not even purport to fully govern that relationship.
 3 Moreover, Google tellingly does not mention the prior versions of the Terms of Service. That’s
 4 because the prior versions in no way purport to address the entirety of users’ interactions with
 5 Google services. To the contrary, those versions recognize that “[o]ur Services are very diverse,
 6 so sometimes additional terms or product requirements . . . may apply.” Santacana Ex. B at 1; Ex.
 7 C at 1. Even if the Court were to rule that the current Terms of Service cover the “same subject
 8 matter,” Plaintiffs may still state a claim for Google’s pre-March 2020 conduct.

9 Regardless, the current Terms of Service do not cover the same subject matter. The “subject
 10 matter” of Plaintiffs’ claim, even broadly construed, is Google’s privacy features. Google
 11 mischaracterizes the relevant “subject matter” as Plaintiffs’ interaction with Google services
 12 generally. Mot. at 20. That is far too broad, as shown by the cases Google cites. *Letizia v. Facebook*
 13 Inc., 267 F. Supp. 3d 1235, 1253 (N.D. Cal. 2017), for example, addressed a claim that Facebook
 14 improperly calculated two specific advertising metrics and thus caused the plaintiffs-advertisers to
 15 pay more than they otherwise would have. The court construed the subject matter to be
 16 “Facebook’s advertising services,” as opposed to the “two advertising metrics at issue here.” *Id.*
 17 The court reached a similar conclusion in *AdTrader, Inc. v. Google LLC*, 2018 WL 3428525, at
 18 *11 (N.D. Cal. July 13, 2018). “The subject matter of the parties’ agreement is Google’s
 19 advertisement services,” not Google’s obligation “to provide refunds for invalid activity.” *Id.*

20 The thread holding these cases together is that there was already an agreement about the
 21 defendant’s advertising services, so the plaintiffs could not rewrite those agreements to add a new
 22 commitment about the advertising services. But here, the March 2020 Terms state that the Privacy
 23 Policy (which discusses some privacy features) is “not part of these terms.” Ex. A at 1. Google is
 24 trying to have its cake and eat it too: on the one hand, disclaiming all privacy-related disclosures
 25 from the Terms of Service, while, on the other hand, arguing that the Terms cover privacy features.

26 Plaintiffs also plead the elements of a quasi-contract claim, namely, that Plaintiffs
 27 unwittingly conferred a benefit which Google knowingly accepted under circumstances that make

1 it inequitable for Google to accept and retain the benefit. TAC ¶¶ 268-69. Google knew people
 2 misunderstood Google's promises regarding WAA, and that it was collecting app-activity
 3 information without consent, and yet Google did nothing but continue collecting that information
 4 from unsuspecting users. The TAC cites key admissions by Google employees that have come to
 5 light through discovery in this case: (emphases are added).

- 6 • “WAA (or any of the other controls) does not actually control what is stored by Google,
 7 but simply what the user has access to. ***This is really bad.*** . . . I for one didn’t realize
 8 Google actually stored all of my activity even if those controls were off and I work at
 9 Google! ***Seems sort of silly to turn them off as I’m not any safer with them off than***
 10 ***on.***” TAC ¶ 260.
- 11 • “The WAA and other controls imply we don’t log the data, but obviously we do. ***We***
 12 ***need to change the description*** to indicate even with the control off, Google retains
 13 this data and uses it for X purposes. . . . If we are storing data that the user does not
 14 have access to, we need to be clear about that fact.” TAC ¶ 261.
- 15 • “Today, ***we don’t accurately describe what happens when WAA is off.*** [G]iven the
 16 way on/off works, one has to then assume that disabled (off) would be the exact
 17 opposite of what is described for what happens when the WAA bit is on.” TAC ¶ 261.
- 18 • Turning WAA off leaves users with a “***false sense of security*** that their data is not
 19 being stored at Google, when in fact it is.” TAC ¶ 9.
- 20 • Describing WAA as “not clear to users,” “nebulous,” “not well understood,” and noting
 21 that WAA “confuses users.” TAC ¶ 8.
- 22 • Google employees know that Google’s promise of control is “***just not true.***” *Id.*

23 The TAC also quotes documents that have come to light through proceedings with the Arizona
 24 Attorney General, including admissions by Google employees that its privacy disclosures are a
 25 “mess” with regard to obtaining “consent” for its data-collection practices. TAC ¶ 37; *see also id.*
 26 ¶ 83 (WAA is something “difficult enough that people won’t figure it out”).

27 Plaintiffs further allege in detail that Google “profits from the communications it
 28 intercepts,” including by associating the data with user profiles, directing targeted advertisements
 29 to consumers, and using the data to modify its own algorithms and technology, including for
 30 Google search. TAC ¶¶ 117-41. Plaintiffs likewise allege in detail why the intercepted
 31 communications are valuable to Google, including by citing specific studies and surveys. TAC
 32 ¶¶ 142-63. And Plaintiffs allege that their third-party app activity data was impermissibly
 33 intercepted by Google every time they visited an app that uses Google’s Firebase SDK products,

1 including GA for Firebase, AdMob, and Cloud Messaging. TAC ¶¶ 6, 60, 262. Plaintiffs even
 2 identify the specific apps they visited. TAC ¶¶ 213, 215, 217, 219, 221, 223, 225, 227, 229. Even
 3 if Rule 9(b) applies, Plaintiffs' allegations more than suffice.

4 This case is like *Williams v. Facebook, Inc.*, 498 F. Supp. 3d 1189, 1200 (N.D. Cal. 2019)
 5 (Seeborg, J.), in which the plaintiffs stated an unjust enrichment claim based on Facebook's
 6 unauthorized scraping of call and text data. This Court rejected Facebook's argument that Plaintiffs
 7 failed to plead particularized facts showing when they were presented with the misleading prompt,
 8 reasoning that “[s]uch exacting specificity is not required, however, as the SAC contains sufficient
 9 facts to aver that Plaintiffs downloaded” the relevant apps before Facebook stopped the challenged
 10 practice. *Id.* at 1201. The same outcome is warranted here, particularly because Google admits that
 11 it collected Plaintiffs' app-activity data while they had WAA off throughout the Class Period.

12 CONCLUSION

13 For these reasons, Plaintiffs respectfully request that this Court deny Google's Motion in
 14 its entirety. Alternatively, Plaintiffs request leave to amend to correct any deficiencies.⁵

15 Dated: October 6, 2021

16 By: /s/ Amanda Bonn
 17 Amanda Bonn (CA Bar No. 270891)

18 SUSMAN GODFREY L.L.P.
 19 1900 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 1400
 20 Los Angeles, CA 90067
 21 Telephone: (310) 789-3100

22 Mark C. Mao (CA Bar No. 236165)
 23 mmao@bsflp.com
 24 Beko Reblitz-Richardson (CA Bar No. 238027)
 25 brichardson@bsflp.com
 26 BOIES SCHILLER FLEXNER LLP
 27 44 Montgomery Street, 41st Floor
 28 San Francisco, CA 94104
 Telephone: (415) 293 6858
 Facsimile (415) 999 9695

26 ⁵ “[L]eave to amend shall be freely given when justice so requires, bearing in mind the underlying
 27 purpose of Rule 15 to facilitate decisions on the merits, rather than on the pleadings or
 28 technicalities. . . .” *Cal. Spine & Neurosurgery Inst. v. United Healthcare Ins. Co.*, 2019 WL
 4450842, at *3 (N.D. Cal. Sept. 17, 2019).

1 Jesse Panuccio (admitted *pro hac vice*)
2 jpanuccio@bsfllp.com
3 BOIES SCHILLER FLEXNER LLP
4 1401 New York Ave, NW
5 Washington, DC 20005
6 Tel.: (202) 237-2727
7 Fax: (202) 237-6131

8 James Lee (admitted *pro hac vice*)
9 jlee@bsfllp.com
10 Rossana Baeza (*pro hac vice*)
11 rbaeza@bsfllp.com
12 BOIES SCHILLER FLEXNER LLP
13 100 SE 2nd Street, Suite 2800
14 Miami, FL 33131
15 Telephone: (305) 539-8400
16 Facsimile: (305) 539-1307

17 William Christopher Carmody (*pro hac vice*)
18 bcarmody@susmangodfrey.com
19 Shawn J. Rabin (*pro hac vice*)
20 srabin@susmangodfrey.com
21 Steven Shepard (*pro hac vice*)
22 sshepard@susmangodfrey.com
23 Alexander P. Frawley (*pro hac vice*)
24 afrawley@susmangodfrey.com
25 SUSMAN GODFREY L.L.P.
26 1301 Avenue of the Americas, 32nd Floor
27 New York, NY 10019
28 Telephone: (212) 336-8330

John A. Yanchunis (*pro hac vice*)
jyanchunis@forthepeople.com
Ryan J. McGee (*pro hac vice*)
rmcghee@forthepeople.com
Michael F. Ram, CA Bar No. 104805
mram@forthepeople.com
MORGAN & MORGAN, P.A.
201 N Franklin Street, 7th Floor
Tampa, FL 33602
Telephone: (813) 223-5505
Facsimile: (813) 222-4736

29 Attorneys for Plaintiffs